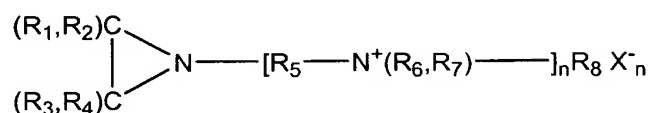


**Abstract of the Disclosure**

Methods and compositions for selectively modifying nucleic acid molecules in biological compositions, including contacting the composition with an inactivating agent  
5 having the formula:



where each of  $R_1$ ,  $R_2$ ,  $R_3$ ,  $R_4$ ,  $R_6$ ,  $R_7$ , and  $R_8$  is, independently, H or a monovalent  
10 hydrocarbon moiety containing between 1 and 4 carbon atoms, inclusive, provided that  $R_1$ ,  $R_2$ ,  $R_3$ ,  $R_4$ ,  $R_6$ ,  $R_7$ , and  $R_8$  cannot all be H;  $R_5$  is a divalent hydrocarbon moiety containing between 2 and 4 carbon atoms, inclusive; X is a pharmaceutically acceptable counter-ion; and n is an integer between 2 and 10, inclusive are disclosed.